

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-05 /066 W

-----055952 212306Z /66

R 202122Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4829

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, VE, UY

SUBJ: POSSSIBILITY OF RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
BETWEEN URUGUAY AND VENEZUELA

REF: A) 76 MONTEVIDEO 2493 B) 76 MONTEVIDEO 2500

C) 76 CARACAS 8258

1. SUMMARY: FONMIN ROVIRA HAS TOLD PRESS HE FORESEES
A POSSIBILITY FOR RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH
VENEZUELA. UPON DEPARTURE FOR UNGA, HE ALSO TOLD REPORTERS
HE WILL ATTEND A VENEZUELAN RECEPTION IN NEW YORK AND WILL
MAKE OTHER CONTACTS IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM.
VENEZUELA SUSPENDED RELATIONS WITH URUGUAY JULY 5, 1976
FOLLOWING AN INCIDENT INVOLVING THE INVIOLABILITY OF THE VENE-
ZUELAN EMBASSY AND THE RIGHT OF ASYLUM. WE BELIEVE THAT A
VENEZUELAN DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN URUGUAY COULD BE HELPFUL
IN OUR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS HERE.
END SUMMARY.

2. UPON DEPARTURE FOR THE UNGA, FONMIN ROVIRA TOLD RE-
PORTERS THAT HE WOULD BE MAKING CONTACTS IN THE UNITED STATES
IN AN EFFORT TO REESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA.

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THESE RELATIONS WERE SUSPENDED JULY 5, 1976 AFTER THE VENE-
ZUELANS ACCUSED THE GOU OF ILLEGALLY ABDUCTING AN URUGUAYAN,
ELENA QUINTERO DE DIEZ, FROM THE GROUNDS OF THE VENEZUELAN
EMBASSY WHERE SHE WAS SEEKING ASYLUM (REF A). SHORTLY
BEFORE THE FORMAL SUSPENSION THE GOU DECLARED THE VENEZUELAN
AMBASSADOR AND THE DCM PERSONA NON GRATA (REF B). CONSULAR
RELATIONS WERE REESTABLISHED IN AUGUST 1976. THE LATEST STATE-

MENTS OF ROVIRA FOLLOW CLOSELY AFTER PRESS SPECULATION THAT THE MATTER MAY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS DURING PRESIDENT MENDEZ' VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

3. A VENEZUELAN CONSULAR OFFICER RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE PRINCIPAL IMPEDIMENT TO RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WAS THE CONTINUED IMPRISONMENT OF ELENA QUINTERO DE DIAZ. ROVIRA, IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE PRESS, REPORTEDLY SAID, "I AM OF THE OPINION THAT IT IS LAMENTABLE THAT WE ARE GOING THROUGH THIS WITH A SISTER COUNTRY SUCH AS VENEZUELA. CONTINUING WITH MY PERSONAL OPINION, I BELIEVE THE SITUATION CAN BE OVERCOME, SPECIFICALLY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE TRADITIONAL URUGUAYAN RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF ASYLUM."

4. IN CONVERSATION SEPT 20, THE AMBASSADOR QUERIED ACTING FONMIN DELFANTE REGARDING STATE OF URUGUAYAN/VENEZUELAN NEGOTIATIONS. DELFANTE INDICATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CONVERSATIONS DURING MENDEZ VISIT TO U.S., BUT THAT THE GOU WAS QUOTE MOST DESIROUS UNQUOTE OF NORMALIZING RELATIONS.

5. COMMENT: FROM THE STANDPOINT OF U.S. INTERESTS, WE BELIEVE THAT A VENEZUELAN DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN MONTEVIDEO COULD PROVE HELPFUL, AND HOPEFULLY SUPPORTIVE, TO OUR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS HERE. WE THEREFORE LOOK WITH FAVOR ON THE CURRENT EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RAPPROACHMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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